

# TRAFFIC KILLER BANDIT GETS FIVE YEARS

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### Juror Feels Sorry For Acosta, 26

Ruben Acosta, 26-year-old contract farm worker, was sentenced from 1-to-5 years in prison for the traffic death of a mother and her infant son last April.

Pleas of the jury that Acosta be returned to his family in Mexico were brushed aside by Superior Court Judge Joe Raycraft who imposed the sentence last week.

Acosta was also sentenced to serve two six-months jail terms simultaneously with the longer term. The laborer was convicted last month on charges of stealing a taxi and ramming through a red light at Hawthorne avenue and Highway 101. The crash killed Mrs. Patricia Von Delden, 20, of Glendale and her child, Kim, with whose car Acosta collided. The baby's father was seriously injured but recovered.

Judge Raycraft labeled the affair a "rather aggravated case," and said it resulted in the "useless loss of two lives."

Following the August 6 trial, Jury Foreman Norval T. Clark said,

"Tell him (Acosta) we feel sorry for him and don't think he's a criminal."

### LATE NEWS

**BOARD RESIGNATION:** Robert I. Plomert Jr., resigned from the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce for reasons of health. A. E. Thompson was unanimously chosen to serve out Plomert's unfinished term. The City Council's appointee to the board, Councilman Mervin M. Schwab and, alternate, Albert Isen, were also present.

**ON THE STAGE:** Former City Councilman Harvey Spelman will soon be seen portraying the role of a physician in "The Curious Savage," a play being produced by the Hampton Players. The play will be given at Redondo Union High School, October 8, 9, 15, 16.

**THIRD FURNACE:** A third open hearth furnace will be placed in operation at the Torrance works of the Columbia-Geneva Steel division of United States Steel, Saturday, September 18, with the first heat scheduled to be tapped the following Monday, it was announced today.

Approximately 40 employees who were furloughed last spring when operations were reduced to a two-furnace level are being recalled. Among these are open hearth, engineering and maintenance personnel, bringing the total plant employment to about 760.

**TORRANCE CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL:** The council (Continued on Page 8)

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# RARE DEATH OF PREGNANT MOTHER STILL MYSTERY

## Polio Unlikely, Surgeon States

The rare death last week of an attractive, expectant mother who died within five hours of entering the hospital was still shrouded in mystery this week.

The death of Mrs. Shirley Kalnas, 27, of 811 Fay-smith, Torrance Gardens, was first diagnosed as a rare case of polio or brain virus.

**Probably No Polio**  
"The possibility of polio has been pretty well eliminated," Dr. Victor Ceflu, chief county autopsy surgeon stated yesterday, "though it has not been completely set aside."

Mrs. Kalnas was rushed to Torrance Memorial Hospital a week ago Tuesday morning. By early afternoon she was dead.

The young woman was the mother of two children. She was in her fourth month of expectancy, according to Dr. Ceflu.

**Pregnant**  
"The possibility of her having died of toxic poisoning as a result of her pregnancy has not (Continued on Page 8)

## '47 Chevy 'Crashes' Showcase

A '47 Chevy owned by Alfred Chason, 22, of 22426 South Main street, Torrance, landed rather unexpectedly in the showcase of Paul's Chevrolet agency, 1640 Cabrillo when Chason's car allegedly ran out of control in front of the agency around 2 a.m. Monday morning.

Chason had just made a right hand turn from Carson onto Cabrillo when the car happened to straddle the abutment in the center of Cabrillo for 54 feet, according to Torrance police. The car then headed for the east side of the street, apparently out of control. It glanced off a light standard, causing the driver to be thrown from the car, whereupon the Chevy scooted across the sidewalk and stopped with the front wheels resting inside the show case.

While Chason suffered minor injuries, the plate glass window suffered major injuries.

## COUNCIL BRIEFS

**PARKING METERS:** Bids for parking meters were accepted Tuesday night. They will be studied. A committee of three Torrance engineers will assist the city in an advisory capacity. Bids were received on manual, automatic, single, and double headed machines. Survey is expected to be completed in two weeks.

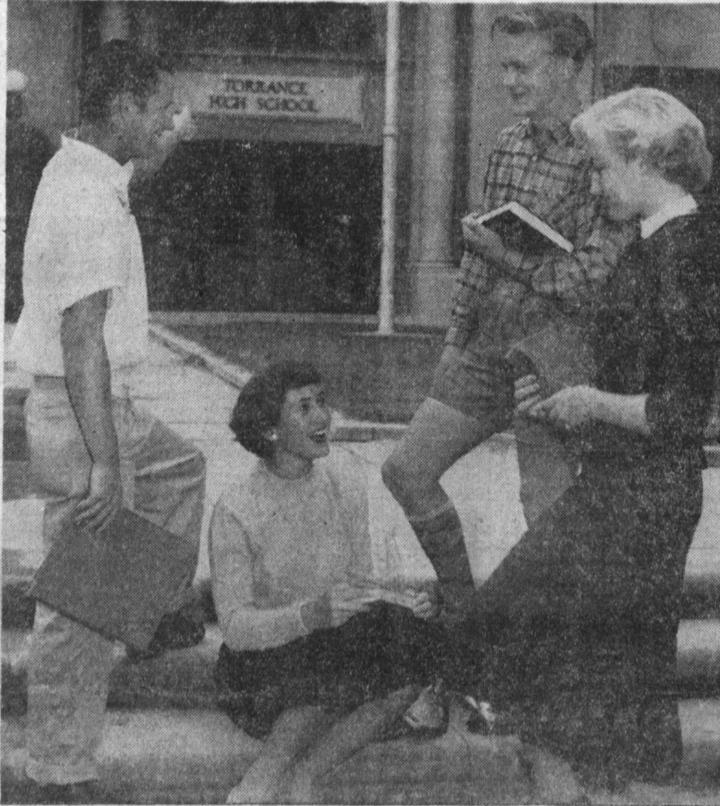
**SEPUVEDA GARDENS SEWER DISTRICT:** The sewer contractor has been ordered to repair faulty road work. Assurance was given the city by the sub-contractor that the work crew would be out before Thursday.

**PALOS VERDES BARRICADES:** Ralph E. Dralle raised "one small voice" against the barricades in a letter to the Council. State money is used for PV roads, he argued, therefore, "public roads should be for public use." Torrance has not yet had a reply to the letter sent recently to PV protesting the barricades.

**GUM MACHINES:** The City Council did not grant permission to the Lions club for license-free gum machines. If this is done for one club, it would have to be done for all others as well and there would be far too many similar requests, the Council argued.

**CRENSHAW BLVD.** A total of \$6750 has been offered the city by the contractor for paving Crenshaw boulevard south of Highway 101. While the amount from Cottage Grove builders was first accepted, it was held up until driveway matters are straightened out.

## BACK TO SCHOOL



**FOREIGN VISITORS:** Lena Malmstrom, 17, (r) and Max Will, 17, (r) have come all the way from Europe to study at Torrance High School during the coming year. Miss Malmstrom is

from Sweden; Will is from Germany. Welcoming them and directing them to the school are Doris Popovich, 16, (seated) and Jim Haworth, 16. All are seniors.

## Share Cost of Signals Council Tells Schools

If the School Board wants traffic signals and crossing guards for Torrance's schools, they should carry half the cost, was the general consensus of opinion of the City Council Tuesday night.

Traffic signals and crossing guards were requested at three different corners on 174th street by Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools. State Code Mayor Nick Dralle referred to

a section of the California Vehicle Code (section 477.5), which states that the cost of such signals and guards should be borne on a joint city-school basis.

"One-half the cost to the State Department of Public Works or local authorities of placing and replacing any traffic signal pursuant to this section shall be borne by the school district requesting the placement of the signal," part of the section reads.

Dralle's letter came from the office of Harold W. Kennedy, county counsel.

**Guards Ordered**  
The Council ordered two

crossing guards be hired for 174th street and Prairie avenue. A number of parents appeared before the Council telling of the hazardous situation created by 174th street traffic for children going to the Prairie Avenue Elementary School.

The Council also received a petition signed by 111 individuals requesting the two crossing guards.

"Once we grant crossing guards here, we'll have to grant them all over town," Mayor Dralle said. "People will start flocking in here demanding signals and guards. We should be getting financial help from the School Board."

## Group to Boost Civic Center Bond Election

A high-spirited, all-out campaign is being planned to publicize the coming special bond election slated for October 19 and to work toward passage of the two bond issues which call for a new civic center, police station, and swimming pool in Torrance.

A group of civic-minded citizens, representing the steering committee for the campaign, met last night with the City Council and other city officials to obtain all the details regarding the bond issues, according to Mrs. Herma Tillim, who is organizing the drive.

The group intends to organize a larger committee to handle precinct work and start a fund-raising drive for the campaign.

Plans are being made to send circulars with detailed informa-

## City Cracks Down On Troublesome Builder

"I think it's time we have Tony Paravano come before the Council and that we talk 'turkey' to him!"

The firm statement came from Councilman Mervin Schwab, who, as a rule, is not easily provoked. Schwab's desire to lay down the law to the Crenshaw Gardens builder against whom complaints continue to be heard was enthusiastically approved by the rest of the Council.

**\$30 MILLION**  
**Giant 2000 Home Tract Confirmed**

Plans for another giant 2000-home tract valued at \$30 million and involving 400 acres at Torrance blvd. and Hawthorne were confirmed this week by Don Wilson of the Milton Kauffman Construction Corp.

This confirms an exclusive story carried by the Torrance Press about two months ago. Construction of the first unit is planned to begin March 1 of next year, according to Wilson. The property was purchased from the Del Amo Estates company. The land lies west of Hawthorne boulevard between Torrance boulevard and Sepulveda boulevard.

A shopping center to be located on Del Amo property at Torrance boulevard and Hawthorne avenue, is also planned. The present tract will be quite similar to the other giant tract being constructed at 190th street and Hawthorne boulevard by Milton Kauffman. Construction there has just been started on the second unit of 500 homes.

## New 'Tricks Or Treats' Proposed

Torrance kids and residents may play a different type of "tricks or treats" this year around Halloween time if plans being considered by several local groups materialize.

An attempt to give the annual Halloween fun and frolic a constructive flavor will be made at a meeting of the Torrance Coordinating Council, Tuesday night, September 21, at 7:30 p.m. in the Greenwood school, room 10.

Some of the following suggestions will be made: Let children go for tricks-or-treats from house to house and collect food items and clothing for charitable purposes. The kids themselves would be given a costume parade, prizes, a show, and party.

Residents would receive receipts for having "treated." Then they would not have to give again.

Consideration of this matter before the Coordinating Council was asked by Mrs. Arthur Solomon of the United Church Women's Council. It is hoped that such a program might get the cooperation of the P-TA's and other local groups, Mrs. Solomon declared.

## Going Crazy? Try Selling That Fiddle

Here's good news for tuba players, drummers, trumpeters, and other musicians who have neighbor-trouble—just sell your instrument and become a painter.

For instance, Mrs. John McCulloch of 23022 So. Meyer avenue has an accordion for sale and sold it instantly through an ad in the Torrance Press classified section.

Here's how the inexpensive 90c ad read:

FOR SALE: Full size 120 Base Accordion. With case, \$40. 23022 S. Meyer Ave., DA. 6-1726

Even if you have no trouble at all with the neighbors and you just want to sell that dusty old fiddle, call us at FA. 8-3456 by Tuesday 5 p.m. Just one ad and you'll be in the chips.

## 2 Additions To Direct Dialing

Beginning Sunday, September 19, FAirfax telephone users will be able to dial direct to telephones in Long Beach and Whittier, manager Dick Pyle of Pacific Telephone announced today.

Calls to those exchanges now are placed through the "O" operator.

At the present time local telephone users are able to dial direct to about two million telephones in 30 different exchanges within Los Angeles County.

The two additions to wide-range dialing will be available Sunday for all extended service subscribers, except those on 4-party lines. Charges will apply for calls to the added exchanges as they do now when these calls are placed with operators.

A numerical "code" must be dialed in the case of the Long Beach numbers, Pyle pointed out, as that exchange (Continued on Page 8)

## Kiwanis Kids Day Set Next Week

Torrance will declare open season on hunting Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of next week, September 23 through 25. The "big game" will consist of more than 200 prizes valued at over \$2000 plus three grand prizes. Occasion of the grand festivities is the third annual Kiwanis Kids Day Treasure Hunt, for grown-ups and kids alike.

Hunting licenses and tags are on sale now at all Torrance merchants. A town-wide ticket selling campaign has been scheduled for this Friday night, September 17. Various youth groups, under adult supervision, will canvass the city selling tickets.

**Top Prizes**  
Three top prizes to be given away include: first prize—week-end for two in Las Vegas, transportation via Western Air Lines, courtesy Globe Trotters Travel Agency, Redondo Beach; second prize — Roper automatic gas dryer, valued at \$299.50, arranged through Torrance Plumbing Co.; third prize—\$300 diamond ring, courtesy Howards Jewelers.

There will be three separate hunts, as follows:  
The Captain Kid Treasure Hunt starts at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, September 25. All kids 10 years old and under are eligible. The hunt will be staged in the grass on "Treasure Island" (El Prado park, corner El Prado and Cravens, next to the city hall). Hunting tag must be worn. Consolation prizes will be given unlucky hunters.

**Merchandise Hunt**  
The Big Merchandise Hunt will be staged from noon Thursday, September 23 through 1 p.m. Saturday, September 25. It's a "Find Your Number—Claim Your Prize" set-up. Holders of hunting licenses will hunt for their numbers in the windows of Torrance merchants and then claim their prize.

The three top prizes will be given away at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, September 25 at "Treasure Island" (El Prado park, corners El Prado and Cravens, next to the City Hall.) Winners of first, second, and third prizes need not be present. All other unclaimed prizes will also be given away at this time. Winners of these prizes, however, must be present.

All profits from this annual treasure hunt are used for the benefit of Torrance youth. The money is used for the dental health clinic, cub scouts, sending handicapped children to camp, Torrance High School graduation party, Kiwanis Little League team, and Kiwanis swim program.



**PROMINENT DISPLAY . . .** Members of the Lions club make sure that Torrance residents can see the white cane being pinned on Mayor Nick Dralle. Friday and Saturday the Lions

club will hold its annual sight preservation fund raising drive. Left to right are: Milt Isbell, past Lions president, Mayor Dralle, and Warren Hamilton, present proxy.

# White Cane Day This Friday And Saturday